

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

RECEIVED DIVISION OF OIL&GAS

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Mr. M. G. Mefferd State Oil and Gas Supervisor Division of Oil and Gas Department of Conservation 1416 9th Street, Room 1310 Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Mefferd:

It is my understanding from my staff that since your letter of March 12, relationships with the Region IX EPA office have improved, and that the State is moving ahead to submit a final Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) reflecting your discussions with the Region. The Region has stated that the major problem for such a delay was due to the litigation settlement involving the definition of Underground Sources of Drinking Water (USDW), and the effects these changes had on the State aquifer exemption process. In addition, there apparently was a misunderstanding on responding to the questions which the State already addressed previously. understand that these areas have been mutually resolved to some extent.

The Agency staff are instructed to process the State applications as soon as possible. I intend to stay informed of the situation, and ask that you inform me of any additional concerns you might have.

Sincerely yours,

alan Tevin

Alan Levin, Director State Programs Division Office of Drinking Water (WH-550)